GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6521
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
SPARE CAPACITY FOR DATA TRANSMISSION
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1998 the Union Government authorised the Railways to lease out excess/spare capacity for data transmission to BSNL or licensees of BSNL and internet service providers to augment income;

(b) if so, whether the Railways had 1260 spare channels with an estimated potential earnings of Rs.10.00 crores, in excess of railways administrative telecom requirements during 1998-2001; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the Railways leased out the spare capacity and the quantum of lease rental accrued therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c):During 1998-2001, some of the Zonal Railways had spare channels on different sections in excess of Railways administrative telecom requirements. During this period Railways leased out spare capacity of 13 streams of 2 MBPS (390 channels) at a cost of about Rs. 40.88 lakhs.